

REGULAR SOCIAL EVENTS FROM ST MATTHEW'S:

Soup Café

Every Monday 12.30–2pm at Whitehill Village Hall
Homemade soups served with crusty bread, followed by tea or coffee. This relies entirely on donations.

Donkey Group

Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm at Eveley Corner Cottage. Mostly a social gathering, though we do help if needed. Contact Jilly for more information

Drop-in

Every Friday 9.30am at Whitehill Village Hall
Homemade cakes, toast and marmalade, tea or coffee. This relies entirely on donations.

House Group

Meets once a month.
Lively discussions and refreshments.
Contact Gavin Thomas on 01420 487554

We have a Friends area in the church porch, but at present our table looks quite sparse. We are going to put up a board to display photos, both recent and of bygone days, if you have any photos of weddings or christenings or of a loved one who has been buried in the graveyard please get in touch, we would love to display a copy on the board.

CONTACT US

WWW.STMATTHEWSFRIENDS.ORG

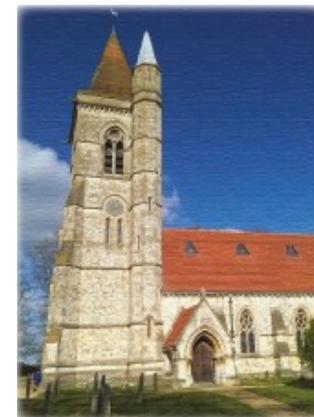
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FRIENDS OF ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

BLACKMOOR AND WHITEHILL

Newsletter

Issue 4



WWW.STMATTHEWSFRIENDS.ORG

Happy New Year, I hope it is enjoyable and successful year for you all.

We have started on a very positive note, the church's 150th anniversary is in two years and we shall want to mark the occasion with celebrations. We did a huge fundraising campaign on the lead up to our 140th and the monies raised made it possible to apply for the grants that enabled us to get the new roof which most notably has helped with keeping the church warm in winter. We have lots of ideas but first we must see to the repairs needed. With our member's contribution and our fundraising efforts I am sure that we will be successful.

I have invited my trustees to take a turn in writing this welcome in future Newsletters, they were all happy, it will give you all an insight to the committee and I am sure make newsletters more interesting!! If you have any memories or photos you would like to share with us please do let me know as we would love to include them.

Our A.G.M. is to be held at the church on Sunday 26th March at 11am after the morning service, please do come, you are all welcome.

We have the Cantique Chamber Choir coming to perform for us on Saturday 29th April, please let me know if you would like to come (tickets £12.50 to include finger buffet and drinks).

Jilly Prideaux, Chairman



ALFRED WATERHOUSE AND THE BUILDING OF ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

In 1865 Sir Roundell Palmer (created Earl of Selborne on his appointment as Lord Chancellor in 1872) bought land between

Selborne and Woolmer Forest and set about creating an estate village on the heathland at Blackmoor. As a devout High Church Anglican he resolved to build a parish church. His chosen architect was Alfred Waterhouse (1830-1905), later renowned for such prominent buildings as Manchester Town Hall and the Natural History Museum in London.

The building of St Matthew's is a perfect example of co-ordination between client, designer and makers. Roundell rejected Waterhouse's original plan that shows the south elevation with an elaborate extension on the side. In general he preferred simpler lines and, instead, accepted a design with stone arches embedded into the north wall to allow for future expansion. Malmstone, quarried from the estate, was used in combination with bathstone dressings. Roundell was keen to employ local workmen, stone mason Thomas Kemp, and carpenters Thomas and George Finch, while Waterhouse brought in stained glass experts and architectural sculptors for decorative stonework. He had a keen eye for pattern and materials, whether stone, metal or wood. Notable designs are coloured encaustic tiles on floor and walls, Gothic-style wooden organ casing, decorative iron altar rails and candlesticks, stone-carved leaf capitals and fabulous beast gargoyles. The architect's trademark oculus-shape tracery recurs throughout the church. His coloured marble reredos behind the altar has since been removed.

The church was consecrated on Whit Tuesday, 1869. An article in *The Hampshire Chronicle* on 29 May began, *St Matthew's, Blackmoor, is a very beautiful building, unlike any that we have seen, from its peculiar style of Geometrical Gothic. The architect, Mr A. Waterhouse has in our judgment, achieved a marked success by the boldness and beauty of his designs.*

Roundell Palmer's meticulous records show the cost of the church was £10,749 10s. 11d.

Joanna Selborne

FROM SORREL WOOD

Sorrel Wood is a member of St Matthew's PCC and congregation. She is also an English Teacher at the Royal School in Haslemere and enjoys reading and writing stories and poetry. This poem is written in the style of John Betjeman, who was a great champion of Anglican churches, bell ringing and English village life. You can read the original version of the poem on this website: <http://www.johnbetjeman.com/versesturned.html>



Verses Turned in Aid of the maintenance of the Church of St Matthew, Blackmoor and Whitehill. *After Betjeman* (and Rossetti)

In the bleak midwinter night
The church is bright with candlelight
And waiting Evensong.
Six clanging bells chime through the breeze
Ringing across the apple trees
The village lanes along.

They summon singers from their tea;
The villagers, in harmony
Trudge through the murky mire.
They hurry up the chancel stairs
Don bright blue robes, line up in pairs
Gather to form a choir.

How warm the radiant candles shine
On Waterhouse's grand design
Of High Victorian glory.
Stained glass windows with rainbow light
And reredos, ornate and bright
Declare the Christian story.

On country mornings sharp and clear
The saints, sinners, searchers draw near
And kneeling on a cushion
With open hands and open hearts
They take the bread and wine, depart
To serve God's Great Commission.

And must the ringers ring in vain
As chimes echo through misty rain
And must the building fall?
Not while we love the Church and live
And of our charity will give
Our life, our strength, our all.